

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of integrating camera operations into a mobile device, the mobile device including a camera and a camera activator, the mobile device having an active application and a camera application, the method comprising the steps of:

switching from operation of the active application to the camera application in response to detection of a first signal from the camera activator; and

detecting a second signal from the camera activator and, in response to detection of said second signal, capturing image data via the camera, resuming operation of the active application, and inserting said image data into an active document open in the active application.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of switching includes suspending the active application and invoking the camera application.

3. The method claimed in claim 2, wherein the mobile device includes a display screen and wherein the camera application operates in a viewfinder mode for displaying a camera view on said display screen.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said active document includes a document selected from the group including an e-mail message, an instant message, a word processing document, a spreadsheet, a contact entry, a personal profile, a calendar entry, a memo, a task reminder, and a multimedia message.

5. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said active document is open in an editable mode within the active application prior to said step of switching.

6. The method claimed in claim 5, further including a step of testing whether said active document is open in said editable mode prior to said step of switching.

7. The method claimed in claim 5, further including steps of activating an input field within said active document and enabling a camera listener

interface in response to said step of activating, prior to said step of switching.

8. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of capturing image data includes creating an image object containing said image data.

9. The method claim in claim 8, wherein said step of inserting includes passing said image object to said active application, whereupon said active application inserts said image within an input field in said active document.

10. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the camera activator includes a triggering device selected from the group including a button, a key, a switch, a dial, a touch pad, a touch screen, a key combination, and a software device.

11. A mobile device, comprising:

a body;

a processor and associated memory housed with said body;

a display screen housed within said body and responsive to signals from said processor;

a camera attached to said body for capturing images and providing image data for said images to said processor;

a camera activator for providing a first signal and a second signal to said processor in response to user activation; and

a camera listener interface associated with said processor for switching from an active application program to a camera application in response to said first signal from said camera activator, and, in response to said second signal from said camera activator, resuming said active application program and passing said active application program said image data for insertion into an active document within said active application program;

whereby said camera captures said image data in response to said second signal.

12. The mobile device claimed in claim 11, wherein said camera application outputs an image object containing said image data, and wherein

said camera listener interface invokes said camera application in response to said first signal.

13. The mobile device claimed in claim 12, wherein said camera application is invoked in a viewfinder mode, whereby said display screen outputs an image corresponding to a view through said camera.

14. The mobile device claimed in claim 11, wherein said active document includes a document selected from the group including an e-mail message, an instant message, a word processing document, a spreadsheet, a contact entry, a personal profile, a calendar entry, a memo, a task reminder, and a multimedia message.

15. The mobile device claimed in claim 11, wherein said active document is open in an editable mode within the active application.

16. The mobile device claimed in claim 15, wherein said camera listener interface includes a test module for testing whether said active document is open in said editable mode prior to switching from the active application.

17. The mobile device claimed in claim 15, wherein said active application includes an enablement module for enabling said camera listener interface in response when the active application enters said editable mode.

18. The mobile device claimed in claim 11, wherein said camera activator includes a triggering device selected from the group including a button, a key, a switch, a dial, a touch pad, a touch screen, a key combination, and a software device.

19. The mobile device claimed in claim 11, wherein said camera listener interface is incorporated within an operating system associated with said processor.